
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5485

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Agriculture & Rural Economic Development
(originally sponsored by Senators Sheldon and Rasmussen)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to veterinary technicians; amending RCW 18.92.015,
2 18.92.021, 18.92.030, 18.92.013, 18.92.140, and 18.92.145; and adding
3 a new section to chapter 18.92 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.92.015 and 2000 c 93 s 9 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (~~Unless the context clearly requires otherwise,~~) The definitions
8 in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context
9 clearly requires otherwise.

10 (~~"Veterinary technician" means a person who has successfully~~
11 ~~completed an examination administered by the board and who has either~~
12 ~~successfully completed a post high school course approved by the board~~
13 ~~in the care and treatment of animals or had five years' practical~~
14 ~~experience, acceptable to the board, with a licensed veterinarian.))~~

15 (1) "Board" means the Washington state veterinary board of
16 governors.

17 (2) "Department" means the department of health.

18 (3) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of health.

1 (4) "Veterinary medication clerk" means a person who has
2 satisfactorily completed a board-approved training program developed in
3 consultation with the board of pharmacy and designed to prepare persons
4 to perform certain nondiscretionary functions defined by the board and
5 used in the dispensing of legend and nonlegend drugs (except controlled
6 substances as defined in or under chapter 69.50 RCW) associated with
7 the practice of veterinary medicine.

8 (5) "Veterinary technician" means a person who is licensed by the
9 board upon meeting the requirements of section 2 of this act.

10 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 18.92 RCW
11 to read as follows:

12 (1) The board shall issue a veterinary technician license to an
13 individual who has:

14 (a) Successfully passed an examination administered by the board;
15 and

16 (b)(i) Successfully completed a posthigh school course approved by
17 the board in the care and treatment of animals; or

18 (ii) Had five years' practical experience, acceptable to the board,
19 with a licensed veterinarian.

20 (2) The board shall adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW identifying
21 standard tasks and procedures that must be included in the experience
22 of a person who qualifies to take the veterinary technician examination
23 through the period of practical experience required in subsection
24 (1)(b)(ii) of this section, and requirements for the supervising
25 veterinarian's attestation to completion of the practical experience
26 and that training included the required tasks and procedures.

27 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.92.021 and 1983 c 2 s 2 are each amended to read as
28 follows:

29 (1) There is created a Washington state veterinary board of
30 governors consisting of (~~six~~) seven members, five of whom shall be
31 licensed veterinarians, one of whom shall be a licensed veterinary
32 technician trained in both large and small animal medicine, and one of
33 whom shall be a lay member.

34 (2)(a) The licensed members shall be appointed by the governor. At
35 the time of their appointment the licensed members of the board must be
36 actual residents of the state in active practice as licensed

1 practitioners of veterinary medicine, surgery, and dentistry, or
2 employed as a licensed veterinary technician, as applicable, and must
3 be citizens of the United States. Not more than one licensed
4 veterinary member shall be from the same congressional district. The
5 board shall not be deemed to be unlawfully constituted and a member of
6 the board shall not be deemed ineligible to serve the remainder of the
7 member's unexpired term on the board solely by reason of the
8 establishment of new or revised boundaries for congressional districts.

9 (b) The terms of the first licensed members of the board shall be
10 as follows: One member for five, four, three, two, and one years
11 respectively. Thereafter the terms shall be for five years and until
12 their successors are appointed and qualified.

13 ~~((+3))~~ (c) The lay member shall be appointed by the governor for
14 a five year term and until the lay member's successor is appointed.

15 ~~((+4))~~ (d) A member may be appointed to serve a second term, if
16 that term does not run consecutively.

17 (e) Vacancies in the board shall be filled by the governor, the
18 appointee to hold office for the remainder of the unexpired term.

19 ~~((+5))~~ (3) The licensed veterinarian technician member is a
20 nonvoting member with respect to board decisions related to the
21 discipline of a veterinarian involving standard of care.

22 (4) Officers of the board shall be a ~~((chairman))~~ chair and a
23 secretary-treasurer to be chosen by the members of the board from among
24 its members.

25 ~~((+6))~~ (5) Four members of the board shall constitute a quorum at
26 meetings of the board.

27 **Sec. 4.** RCW 18.92.030 and 2000 c 93 s 10 are each amended to read
28 as follows:

29 (1) The board shall develop and administer, or approve, or both, a
30 licensure examination in the subjects determined by the board to be
31 essential to the practice of veterinary medicine, surgery, and
32 dentistry. The board may approve an examination prepared or
33 administered by a private testing agency or association of licensing
34 authorities.

35 (2) The board, under chapter 34.05 RCW, may adopt rules necessary
36 to carry out the purposes of this chapter, including:

1 (a) Standards for the performance of the duties and
2 responsibilities of veterinary technicians and veterinary medication
3 clerks and fixing minimum standards of continuing education for
4 veterinary technicians. The rules shall be adopted in the interest of
5 good veterinary health care delivery to the consuming public and shall
6 not prevent veterinary technicians from inoculating an animal(~~(.—The~~
7 ~~board also has the power to adopt by rule)); and~~

8 (b) Standards prescribing requirements for veterinary medical
9 facilities and fixing minimum standards of continuing veterinary
10 medical education.

11 (3) The department is the board's official office of record.

12 **Sec. 5.** RCW 18.92.013 and 2000 c 93 s 8 are each amended to read
13 as follows:

14 (1) A veterinarian legally prescribing drugs may delegate to a
15 registered veterinary medication clerk or a (~~registered~~) licensed
16 veterinary technician, while under the veterinarian's direct
17 supervision, certain nondiscretionary functions defined by the board
18 and used in the dispensing of legend and nonlegend drugs (except
19 controlled substances as defined in or under chapter 69.50 RCW)
20 associated with the practice of veterinary medicine. Upon final
21 approval of the packaged prescription following a direct physical
22 inspection of the packaged prescription for proper formulation,
23 packaging, and labeling by the veterinarian, the veterinarian may
24 delegate the delivery of the prescription to a registered veterinary
25 medication clerk or (~~registered~~) licensed veterinary technician,
26 while under the veterinarian's indirect supervision. Dispensing of
27 drugs by veterinarians, (~~registered~~) licensed veterinary technicians,
28 and registered veterinary medication clerks shall meet the applicable
29 requirements of chapters 18.64, 69.40, 69.41, and 69.50 RCW and is
30 subject to inspection by the board of pharmacy investigators.

31 (2) For the purposes of this section:

32 (a) "Direct supervision" means the veterinarian is on the premises
33 and is quickly and easily available; and

34 (b) "Indirect supervision" means the veterinarian is not on the
35 premises but has given written or oral instructions for the delegated
36 task.

1 **Sec. 6.** RCW 18.92.140 and 2000 c 93 s 13 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 Each person now qualified to practice veterinary medicine, surgery,
4 and dentistry, (~~registered~~) licensed as a veterinary technician, or
5 registered as a veterinary medication clerk in this state or who
6 becomes licensed or registered to engage in practice shall comply with
7 administrative procedures, administrative requirements, and fees
8 determined as provided in RCW 43.70.250 and 43.70.280.

9 **Sec. 7.** RCW 18.92.145 and 2000 c 93 s 14 are each amended to read
10 as follows:

11 Administrative procedures, administrative requirements, and fees
12 shall be established as provided in RCW 43.70.250 and 43.70.280 for the
13 issuance, renewal, or administration of the following licenses,
14 certificates of registration, permits, duplicate licenses, renewals, or
15 examination:

16 (1) For a license to practice veterinary medicine, surgery, and
17 dentistry issued upon an examination given by the examining board;

18 (2) For a license to practice veterinary medicine, surgery, and
19 dentistry issued upon the basis of a license issued in another state;

20 (3) For a (~~certificate of registration~~) license as a veterinary
21 technician;

22 (4) For a certificate of registration as a veterinary medication
23 clerk;

24 (5) For a temporary permit to practice veterinary medicine,
25 surgery, and dentistry. The temporary permit fee shall be accompanied
26 by the full amount of the examination fee; and

27 (6) For a license to practice specialized veterinary medicine.

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